

Baryon-Strangeness correlations in Parton/Hadron transport model for Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

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Abstract.

Baryon-strangeness correlation (C_{BS}) has been investigated with a multi-phase transport model (AMPT) in $^{197}\text{Au} + ^{197}\text{Au}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV. The centrality dependence of C_{BS} is presented within the model, from partonic phase to hadronic matter. We find that the system still reserve partial predicted signature of C_{BS} after parton coalescence. But after hadronic rescattering, the predicted signature will be obliterated completely. So it seems that both coalescence hadronization process and hadronic rescattering are responsible for the disappearance of the C_{BS} signature.

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1. Introduction

Ultra-relativistic heavy ion collision may provide sufficient conditions for the formation of a deconfined plasma of quarks and gluons [1]. Experimental results from RHIC indicate that a strongly-interacting partonic matter (termed sQGP) has been created in the early stage of central Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV at RHIC [2]. In order to uncover the nature of this matter, probes based on fluctuations have been proposed throughout the last decade [3, 4, 5]. Recently a novel event-by-event observable has been introduced by Koch et al. [6], i.e. the baryon-strangeness correlation coefficient C_{BS} .

The correlation coefficient C_{BS} is defined as

$$\sigma_{BS} = \langle BS \rangle - \langle B \rangle \langle S \rangle$$

where B is the baryon charge and S is the strangeness in a given event.

This correlation is proposed as a tool to specify the nature of the highly compressed and heated matter created in heavy-ion collisions [7]. The idea is from that the relation between baryon number and strangeness will be different when the phase of system is different. On the one hand, if the basic degrees of freedom are weakly interacting quarks and gluons, the strangeness is carried exclusively by the s and \bar{s} quarks, $B_S = -\frac{1}{3}$. Thus the correlation coefficient $C_{BS} = 1$. On the other hand, if the degrees of freedom are hadronic matter, the case is different because the baryon-strangeness correlation coefficient strictly depends on the hadronic environments. For example, in a system composed of kaons the coefficient $C_{BS} \approx 0$, but $C_{BS} \approx 1.5$ for Cascades system.

In this article, we study the correlation coefficient with the AMPT model which consists of four main components: the initial conditions, partonic interaction, hadronization and hadronic rescattering. The initial conditions, which include spatial and momentum distributions of minijet partons and soft string excitations, are obtained from HIJING model [9]. In the default version of AMPT model (i.e. default AMPT) [11], minijet partons are recombined with their parent strings when they stop interactions. Then the resulting strings and the initial excited strings are converted to hadrons using the Lund string fragmentation model [12]. In the string melting version of the AMPT model (i.e. the string melting AMPT) [13], the initial matter fragments into partons. A quark coalescence model is used to combine partons to form hadrons. In the two versions, scatterings among partons including the result of partons and the initial minijet partons are modelled by Zhang's parton cascade model (ZPC) [10], meanwhile, dynamics of the hadronic matter is described by A Relativistic Transport (ART) model [14]. Details of the AMPT model can be found in a recent review [8]. Previous studies [15, 16] demonstrated that the partonic effect cannot be neglected and the string melting AMPT model is much more appropriate than the default AMPT model in describing nucleus-nucleus collisions at RHIC. In the present work, the parton interaction cross section in the AMPT model is assumed to be 10 mb which is the same as we used in our previous publications [15, 16, 17].

2. Results

Because the default AMPT is based on string mechanisms it provides an estimate of C_{BS} value in the case where no partonic matter is created. And the string melting AMPT is based on strong parton cascade, therefore it provides an estimate of C_{BS} value when the partonic matter is created. So we can compare the values of C_{BS} in the two models to learn information about partonic matter at RHIC.

Firstly, we study the partonic phase with the string melting AMPT. we will choose appropriate pseudorapidity windows and study the effect of parton cascade.

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In an uncorrelated partonic phase, $\sigma_{us}^2 \approx 0$ and $\sigma_{ds}^2 \approx 0$, we get $C_{BS} \approx 1$. The results from the lattice QCD also predicted $C_{BS} \approx 1$ above T_C . So models of the deconfined matter should obey such constraints.

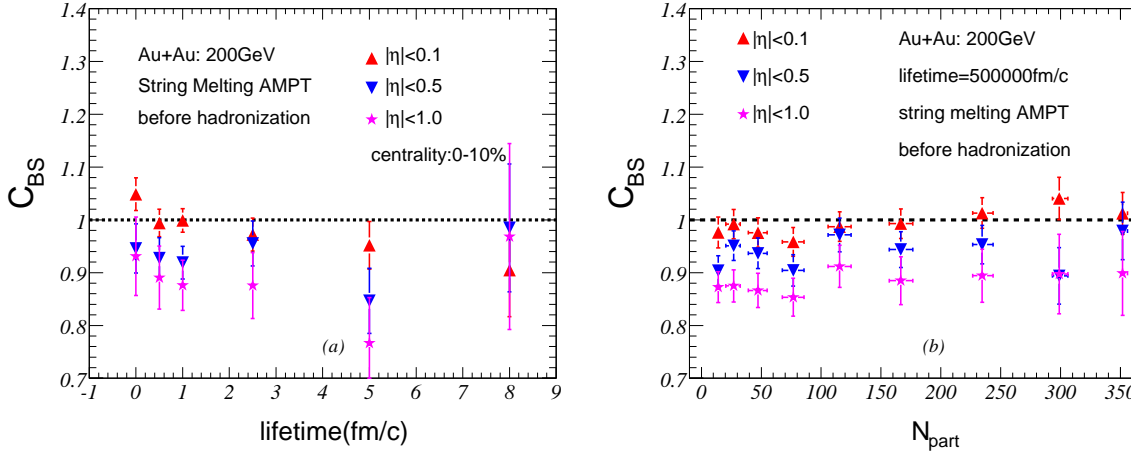


Figure 1. (a) The time evolution of baryon-strangeness correlation coefficient C_{BS} of partonic matter at $\eta_{max}=0.1, 0.5$ and 1.0 ; (b) The dependence of C_{BS} on the number of participant particles in different pseudorapidity windows, namely $\eta_{max} = 0.1, 0.5$ and 1.0 for an infinite lifetime of partonic matter.

Fig. 1 (a) depicts the time evolution of C_{BS} of partonic matter. We find $C_{BS} \approx 1$ with increasing time of parton cascade in different pseudorapidity windows $0.1 \leq |\eta| \leq 0.5$, even for an infinite partonic lifetime. Therefore we conclude that in the above pseudorapidity windows parton cascade does not influence C_{BS} . But Fig. 1 shows that when $\eta_{max} = 1.0$, the conditions that $\sigma_{us}^2=0$ and $\sigma_{ds}^2=0$ are not perfectly satisfied at a long parton cascade period. Therefore, we will focus on the correlations only in the above pseudorapidity windows, namely $\eta_{max} = 0.1$ or 0.5 . In the following work, we present hadronic C_{BS} including all hadrons with masses up to that of Ω^- .

In AMPT model, hadronization is described with a coalescence model, and the pseudo-rapidity distribution will change during this process. After hadronization, strangeness will be enhanced, so the C_{BS} will drop. In the following work, we can study that.

In Fig. 2(a) C_{BS} is depicted as a function of the number of participant particles (N_{part}). For small acceptance windows around mid-pseudo-rapidity, C_{BS} stays roughly constant. The value of C_{BS} may be estimated as simply the ratio of probability to observe a strange baryon to that of strange meson [18]; 0.5 for the string melting AMPT and 0.35 for the default AMPT. In this case, it is concluded that if the deconfined phase exists, the ratio of multiplicity of strange baryon to that of strange meson will be enhanced before hadron rescattering. For $\eta_{max}=0.1$, the pseudo-rapidity windows are

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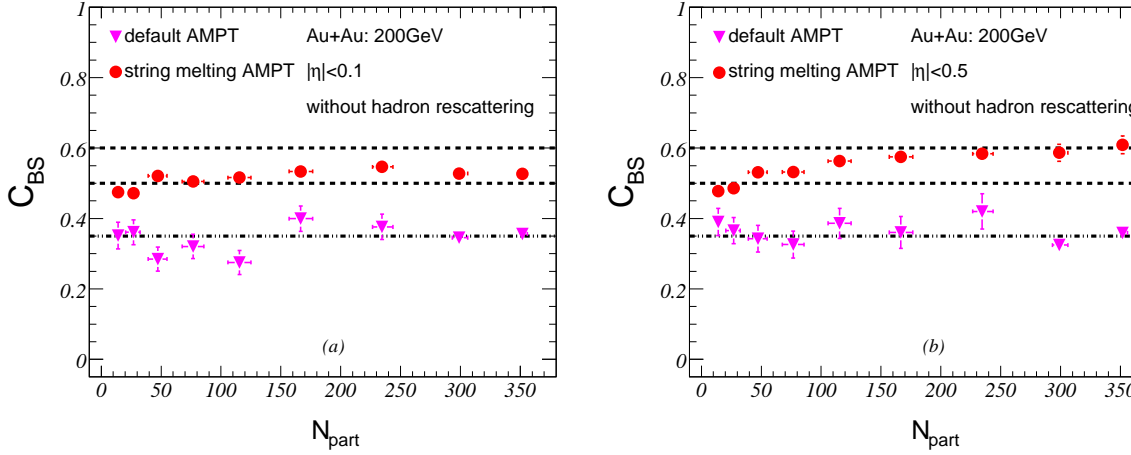


Figure 2. C_{BS} as a function of N_{part} at the $\eta_{max}=0.1$ (a) and $\eta_{max}=0.5$ (b) in the default AMPT and the string melting AMPT without hadronic rescattering respectively.

melting AMPT because of higher baryon density. For central collisions C_{BS} goes to 0.6 and becomes flat. But for the default AMPT, C_{BS} still stays roughly constant because of fragmentation mechanism. The results are consistent with [7]. From Fig. 2 we can say there exists an enhanced C_{BS} for central collisions if there is a partonic phase before the hadronic rescattering.

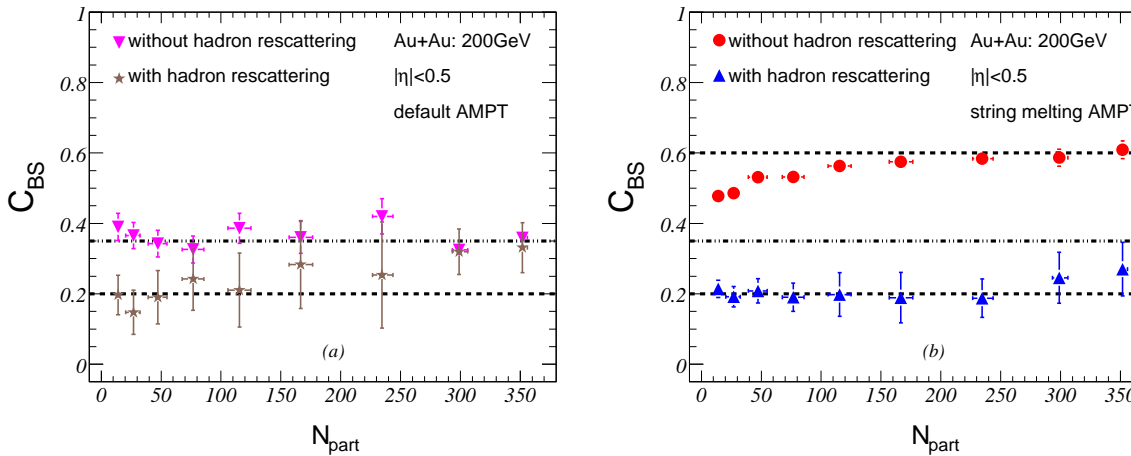


Figure 3. C_{BS} as a function of N_{part} at the $\eta_{max}=0.5$ in the default AMPT (a) and the string melting AMPT (b) without hadronic rescattering and with hadronic rescattering.

We also investigate the effect of hadronic rescattering which is shown in Fig. 3. We find the hadronic rescattering has a larger effect on the C_{BS} for the string melting AMPT simulation than that of the default AMPT from Fig. 3(b). For the default

signal of partonic matter as shown in Fig. 4.

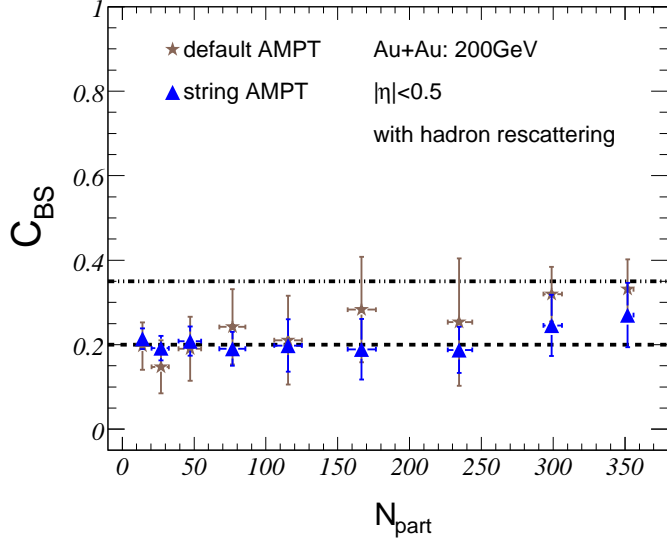


Figure 4. C_{BS} as a function of N_{part} at $\eta_{max} = 0.5$ in the default AMPT and string melting AMPT with hadronic rescattering.

Finally, we try to choose a particle subset to see how much hadronic rescattering effect on the C_{BS} . Here, the subset only includes Kaons and Protons. We find the value of C_{BS} goes down to 0.2 from Fig. 5. But after hadronic rescattering we get the similar results that hadronic rescattering finally obliterates the signals of partonic matter completely.

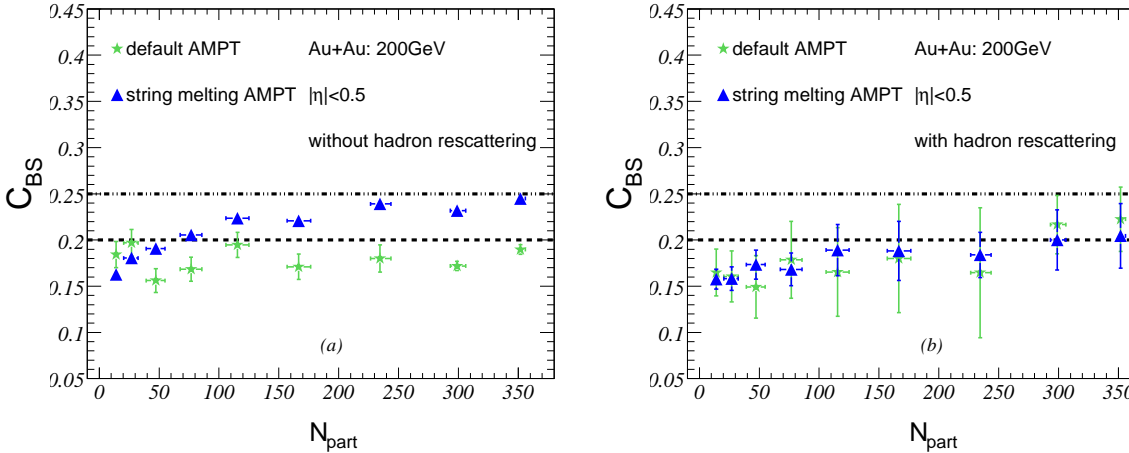


Figure 5. C_{BS} of Kaons and Protons combination as a function of N_{part} at the $\eta_{max} = 0.5$ in the default AMPT and the string melting AMPT without (a) or with hadronic rescattering (b).

3. Summary

We have studied the dependence of the C_{BS} as a function of the N_{part} with a multi-particle transport model. At $\eta_{max} = 0.5$, we find the hadronization makes the C_{BS} value drop, but we still obtain the residual signal. However, after the hadronic rescattering, the residual signal will be washed out. In order to analyze the effect of hadronic rescattering, we choose a special particle group which only includes kaons and protons, but the result does not help. Up till now, there are no powerful fluctuation probes of the deconfined matter in the experiment, perhaps both hadronization and hadronic rescattering effects may be responsible for the disappearance of the signals.

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